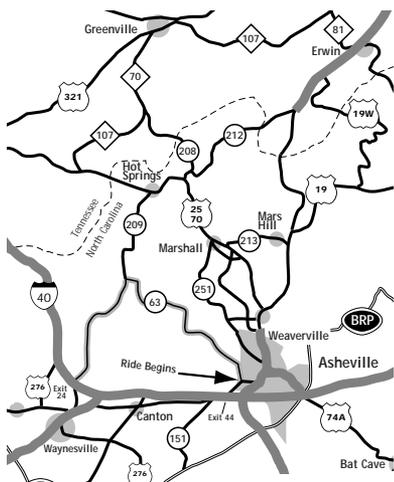


Trust & Luck

Trust your instincts on this route. With great surface conditions and little traffic, you're sure to enjoy the ride up and over Doggett Mountain as well as through several small villages and farmsteads. Luck will be on your side all day. As a matter of fact, you'll be passing through Trust and Luck. Not only has the state of North Carolina produced some beautiful roads, it also has some quaint towns with very interesting names. Besides, who doesn't have fun thinking of clichés that include trust and luck?



GAS

Gas is available at the start and along the first 4.5 miles, then at miles 8.1, 10, 15.4, 27.5, 37.6, and at the ride's end.

GETTING TO THE START

This ride starts in Asheville on US 19/23 at NC 63 west. To get there from I-40, take exit 44 on I-40 and turn north onto business route US 19/23. You'll find NC 63 on the left in about three miles. Reset your trip meter as you turn west onto NC 63.

RIDE OVERVIEW

From Asheville, the route at first is straight and commercial. Trust me, it gets better. In fact, this five-lane road becomes a two-lane state route in just 4.5 miles. Along NC 63 you'll spy lots of old farmsteads as well as some new businesses. The town of Leicester is home to many old Victorian homes that are plainly visible from the road.

From Leicester, NC 63 begins to roll and sweep through the countryside. Along the way, you'll pass many cattle and goat farms. Speaking from experience, I recommend you watch your speed on this section. A collision with a wandering farm animal would end your adventure much too soon.

Beyond the livestock, NC 63 begins its ascent up Doggett Mountain. A four-mile series of tight twists provide the interest here because there's little in the way of scenic views from NC 63.

There is one spectacular view from atop Doggett Mountain, where a small dirt driveway on either side of the road offers some space to pull off and take a rest. On weekends, you'll likely find bicyclists taking in this view while catching their breath.

Descending Doggett Mountain is much like climbing it—steep and twisty. You'll find a few small farms on this side of the mountain, but nothing like those on the Asheville side. Soon, you'll come to St. Jude's Chapel of Hope on the left (mile 27.2).

St. Jude's Chapel of Hope was opened in June of 1991. It was built to give passersby a quiet place to contemplate, meditate, or pray. You need not be religious to enjoy this chapel's appeal. Small but well appointed, its pews seat just eight people, and the stained glass and interior details make it very pleasant. No regular services are held in the chapel, but it is always open.

At the end of NC 63, turn left onto NC 209. Right there in downtown Trust, NC, is the Trust General Store which houses the Spring Creek Cafe and a gas station-store combo. Great prices, delicious meals (lunch and dinner only), and friendly servers make the cafe a favorite destination. The history of Trust is on the menu and the walls of the cafe. The old general store's ledger offers a glimpse into the past.

Just past the General Store a plaque on a small covered bridge proclaims, "Bridge of Madison County." This is not the bridge from the Clint Eastwood movie. However, you *are* in Madison County and it *is* a covered bridge, so make up your own road lie and go with it.

Up ahead is a little bit of Luck—a very little bit. Luck, NC, is little more than a sign. The one shop in Luck used to be a gas station. Its rusting antique pumps let you know that there's no gas in Luck; it now offers

TOTAL DISTANCE
46 miles

TIME FRAME
1 hour from start to finish.
Add time to eat in Trust, or to visit St. Jude's Chapel of Hope.

antique trinkets and samples of local artwork. You're lucky if you find it open.

So, you've got Luck and Trust. Need Faith? Reverend Hightower invites you to the Lusk Chapel for a country service. You'll find the Lusk (not to be confused with Luck) Chapel on the left side of the road just a mile or so out of Luck.

NC 209 continues its twisty journey westward. There are some straight-aways on NC 209, but be forewarned that coming up are horrendous curves up or down a mountain. These will be replaced by rolling sweepers as you near the end of the ride.

At a "T" intersection, you'll see Ferguson's Supply on the right. Like general stores of old, Ferguson's has nearly anything you might need, or think you might need—gas, groceries, ice cream, and even a little restaurant.

Make a left at Ferguson's to remain on NC 209 and you'll begin to see why Scottish Highlanders felt at home and settled here. With its lush green hills and granite outcroppings, it looks much like Scotland.

The ride ends at the intersection of NC 209 and I-40. Go east on I-40 to return to Asheville or continue south on NC 209 to head toward Waynesville and on to US 74 west to Murphy.

RIDE ALTERNATIVES

This ride is very close to the Hot Springs ride (p. 36), and actually overlaps part of the route. Once in Trust, if you decide to venture into Hot Springs, turn right instead of left onto NC 209 from NC 63. In doing so, you'll be out of Luck (Luck, NC, that is).

ROAD CONDITIONS

The first 4.5 miles of NC 63 are straight and highly commercialized. Traffic is heaviest here, too, so watch for cars pulling out of the many businesses that line both sides of the road. NC 63 and NC 209 are excellently paved and banked, and are generally free of debris. They do lack signage. It seems that the twistiest parts of this route occur in thick woods, after a long straightaway.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Doggett Mountain, St. Jude's Chapel of Hope, the Bridge of Madison County, the towns of Trust and Luck.

RESTAURANTS

There's one great place to eat on this ride. In Trust, you can dine in the **Spring Creek Cafe**. It offers lunch and dinner every day except Monday, when it is closed. The lunch menu is covered with salads and over 15 different kinds of burgers and sandwiches, all served with chips (fries are 50 cents extra). Lunch is priced from \$1.50 to \$6. Dinner is a bit more costly, but you get what you pay for. Heaping helpings of seafood, beef, pork and chicken make up the dinner menu with prices ranging from \$8 to \$14. Whether you're there for lunch or dinner, take a minute to read the back of the menu. It tells the

story of the area as well as giving two theories about how the towns of Trust and Luck got their names.

DETAILED DIRECTIONS

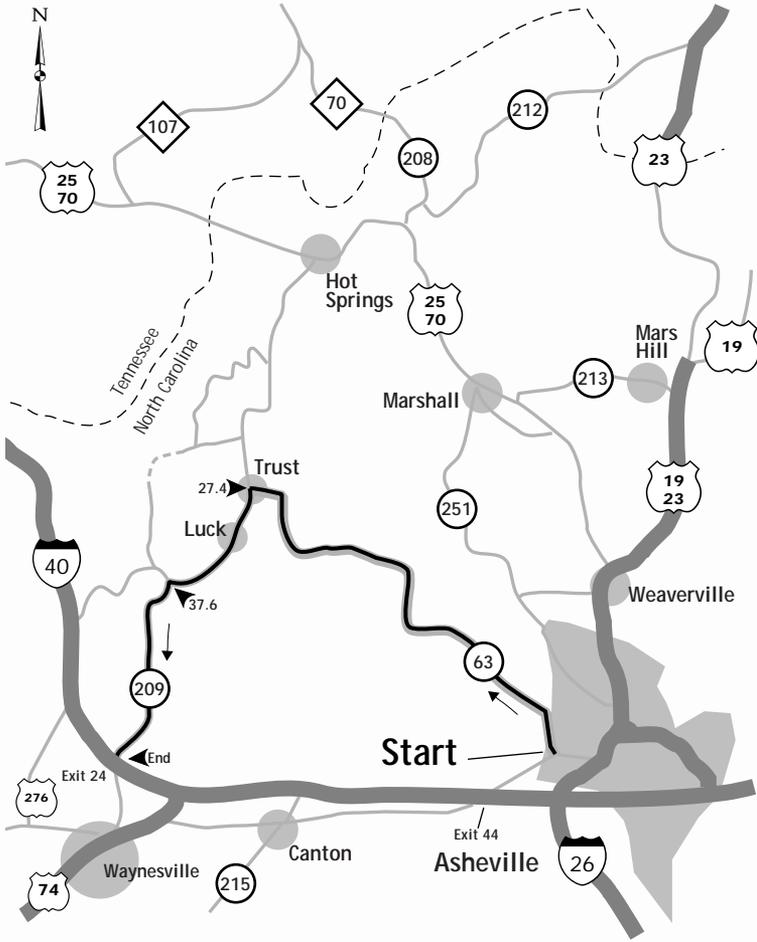
MILE 0—Turn off business US 19/23 onto NC 63 west. *The road becomes two-lane at mile 4.5. In Leicester at mile 8, you'll see some beautiful old Victorian homes. Watch your speed around mile 18—that's when the road begins to snake its way up Doggett Mountain. Tight twists and turns occupy the road until you reach Trust. St. Jude's Chapel of Hope is always open at mile 27.2.*

MILE 27.4—NC 63 ends at NC 209; turn left. *You'll find the Spring Creek Cafe on the left at mile 27.5. The "Bridge of Madison County" sits on the left side of the road, just past the cafe. You'll get a little Luck at mile 28.9. The town of Luck is just a speck, so don't blink. You'll continue through some tight twisties before the road ends.*

MILE 37.6—Turn left at the apparent end of the road to continue on NC 209. *Ferguson Supply is on the right side of the road at this intersection. This supply store has everything from gas to food to fishing supplies. You'll roll through what looks like the Scottish Highlands as you near I-40.*

MILE 46—The ride ends at the intersection of NC 209 and I-40. *Take I-40 east to head toward Asheville or continue straight on NC 209 to intersect US 74 near Waynesville.*

Trust & Luck



- | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------|
| | Interstate Highway | | NC State Highway | | Route |
| | US Highway | | TN, VA, SC State Highway | | Other Road |
| | | | Milepost | | Blue Ridge Parkway |